

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 8 page 11 of the specification to read as follows:

In step 350, the internal tables are updated to indicate that the group of virtual circuits have been accepted. All the indicated virtual circuits may be provisioned, except that ~~the~~ any virtual circuits not provisioned may be marked as being inactive (and thus cannot be used). In step 360, an acceptance signaling message is sent to switch 140, which is propagated by each intermediate device to edge router 120.